

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: June 28, 2006
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4th of July Weekend Patrols

Washington State Patrol troopers will be out in full force this holiday weekend from June 30th through July 4th.

Troopers in Pierce and Thurston Counties will be focusing on DUI, speed and aggressive driving. Troopers will also be focusing on motorcycle safety. With the sunny weather this time of year, the State Patrol has seen an increase in motorcycle fatality and injury collisions. Data indicates that in Washington State, approximately 60% of motorcycle fatalities are single-vehicle incidents, with the most common causes being excessive speed, impaired driving and inability to stay in the lane. Approximately 40% of motorcyclists killed are found to be under the influence of alcohol, more than with any other group of drivers. Statistics also indicate approximately 34% of motorcyclists do not have endorsements.

Here are a few motorcycle safety tips:

- * Make sure you receive the proper training and endorsements before you start riding your motorcycle.
- * Always keep your light on, wear bright clothing, and take the necessary precautions so other drivers can see you.
- * Sometimes the only thing standing between you and the pavement is your gear, so make sure to wear a proper helmet and safety equipment.

The State Patrol is reminding people that traffic will be heavy on this holiday weekend. Watch your speed, wear your seatbelt and don't drink and drive. Troopers will be out working hard in an effort to make this a safe holiday. We want people to have a fun and safe holiday weekend.

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